Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi  
College of Nursing and Health Sciences  

**NURS 4390-001 - Dimensions in Nursing:**  
**Test Taking -**  
**Plan to Apply Successful Strategies (P.A.S.S.)**  
**Syllabus**  
Spring 2017  

**FACULTY:**  
Shelley Dinkens, RN, MSN, CNE  

**OFFICE:**  
Island Hall, Offices 342A  

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Mondays 1-3, and by Appointment  

**TELEPHONE:**  
361-825-2848  

**EMAIL:**  
shelley.dinkens@tamucc.edu  

**CREDITS:**  
2 semester hours (2:0)  

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**  
Focuses on literature study and in-depth knowledge of selected topics relevant to the nurse as a professional provider of care or coordinator of care. Variable content is directed by faculty specialties. **This course will focus on test taking strategies including time management and study techniques to facilitate the nursing student to be successful on unit, course, and specialty exams as well as learn skills to be a successful student and lifelong learner. (AACN Essentials I, VIII)**  

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**  

1. Identify learning style to maximize studying and retention of material  
2. Identify and apply time-management skills  
3. Engage in learning through reading, note-taking and listening effectively  
4. Practice effective study techniques  
5. Calm anxiety through practiced techniques  
6. Describe effective test taking strategies  
7. Analyze test performance  
8. Implement learned test taking strategies
REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES:

Alfaro-Lefevre, R. Critical Thinking and Clinical Judgment: A practical approach, 5th ed, Elsevier (also used for Transitions)


Suggested:


TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES:

“Some old school types complain these days that the higher education too often feels like it is all about customer service. Students and their parents believe they are paying top dollar for a product, and so they want it to be valuable in a measurable way. It’s as if they’ve walked into a department store, and instead of buying five pairs of designer jeans, they’ve purchased a 5-subject course load.

I don’t fully reject the customer-service model, but I think it’s important to use the right metaphor. It’s not retail. Instead, I’d compare college tuition to paying for a personal trainer at an athletic club. We professors play the roles of trainers, giving people access to the equipment (books, labs, our expertise) and after that, it is our job to be demanding. We need to make sure that our students are exerting themselves. We need to praise them when they deserve it and tell them honestly when they have it in them to work harder.”

– Randy Pausch, from The Last Lecture

Teaching methods include lecture, seminar, discussion, small group work, independent study of texts and library resources, computer assisted instruction, audio-visual aids and assignments. While the Professor will provide guidance and consultation, the student is responsible for identification of learning needs, self-direction, seeking consultation and demonstration of course objectives. Students will participate in the following:

1. Assignments: Students are expected to follow instructions associated with the assignments for this course. Students who are confused about an assignment should
contact the faculty member in a timely manner to ensure satisfactory completion of
the assignment on the week it is due. Work must progress as outlined in calendar
and be turned in accordingly; Work must be completed by due dates. All work must
be turned in following the instructions provided for that assignment. No late work will
be accepted. (No emailed assignments will be graded.)

2. **Reading:** Students are expected to complete all required readings and videos.

3. **Practice Testing:** Test practice or quizzes are created to not only test your
knowledge of content but to help you practice testing using the NCLEX style
questions. Consider it as part of the application of what you have learned in this
course.

4. **Appointments:** Meeting with individual students about their test taking abilities is an
important part of assessment and evaluation for both the student and the instructor.
Please plan on making appointments to meet with the instructor after tests in your
courses to evaluate your test taking skill improvement. There are a minimum of two
required meetings with a testing course faculty and one mid-term conference meeting
with this course faculty to discuss your progress and plan of action. If you are an
eLine student, we can do this by phone or online chat.

**Attendance Policy:**
Attendance is mandatory in order to achieve the outcomes of this course. Please see
the schedule for details of what is expected of each student.

**Announcements:**
The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to
change. Check your Islander e-mail for all university closing updates. Check Blackboard
for all course related Announcements. (All announcements are sent to your Islander
e-mail.)

**Assessment Guidelines:**
1. The final assessment will be comprehensive.
2. Testable material is based on course, classroom, all required readings, lecture
and discussion content, related material in the course syllabus, content covered
by media presented in or required for class/clinical, and material given as
handouts.
3. Assessment dates, times, and locations are subject to change.
4. Students will be allowed to use the calculator available on the computer or a
simple calculator for medication type questions.
5. No Cell Phones, IPods/IPads, PDAs or Beepers are allowed during examination
times.
6. Course faculty will review the Final Assessment and the grades will be posted on
Blackboard. Those students scoring below 75 on any assessment are
encouraged to make an appointment with the faculty of record to review their

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exam and address their concerns.

Grading Policy:
Completion of NURS 4390 requires the successful completion of a comprehensive final, 6 quizzes and assignments to evaluate your progression in test taking techniques and the acquirement of time management skills including effective study habits. The percentage value of each requirement is as follows:
- Instructor Signatures (2) – 10%
- Practice Quizzes and Homework Assignments – 20%
- Mid-term Conference meeting – 10%
- Attendance and Participation – 50%
- Final Exam – 10%

Grading scale for Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, College of Nursing & Health Sciences is:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-64</td>
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Class Cancellation:
In the event that a class is canceled, the student is expected to do the readings and complete the objectives for that day. The content will still be included on examinations. The material in this syllabus and dates identified in the Course Calendar are subject to change. Check your Islander e-mail for all university closing updates. Check Blackboard for all course related emails.

Dropping a Class:
Please consult with your advisor before you decide to drop. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by filling out a course drop form. Just stopping participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Faculty cannot drop you from a course. Please refer to the University calendar for the last day to drop a class.

POLICIES:

Evaluation Input From Students

The faculty of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences places great value on evaluative input from students. Evaluation of courses, instructors and clinical facilities
provides the College with important data which is used to strengthen the program. Data is analyzed as to trends and themes and is important to curriculum and sequencing decisions. All evaluations for courses posted are online. The online mechanism allows us the opportunity to tabulate and store information in order to analyze trends within the curriculum. Please be assured that this information is secured and not released until after grades are submitted. No names are available to faculty. In order to garner some reliability and validity, the College must have representative data from the student population. That representation, based on the literature, has been set at 70%. The College is anticipating that students will thoughtfully participate in the evaluation process which will assist the faculty with the growth of the program. A link to evaluations will be available on Blackboard toward the end of the semester. Thank you in advance for your assistance with the evaluation process.

**Academic Integrity and Honesty**

It is expected that University students will demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction, and ability to manage their own affairs. Students are viewed as individuals who possess the qualities of worth, dignity, and the capacity for self-direction in personal behavior. University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one’s own). Please see the following sites for additional information:

University Student Handbook and Code of Conduct: [http://www.tamucc.edu/~students](http://www.tamucc.edu/~students)
University catalog related to academic integrity and honesty: [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/)
University Rules and Procedures: [University Procedure 13.02.99.C3.01 Academic Misconduct Cases](http://www.tamucc.edu/~students)

**Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361.825.5816 or visit the office in CCH 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disabilities Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816

**Title IX**

As part of the Texas A & M Corpus Christi University policy, pregnant students are urged to contact the Title IX office for facilitation of academic issues impacted by pregnancy,
delivery and subsequent complications. Contact information: Mr. Samuel Ramirez, Title IX Coordinator or Ms. Rosie Ruiz, Deputy Title IX Coordinator (825-5826).

Grade Appeals Process

The College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) adheres to the University’s student grade appeal procedures described in Section 13.02.99.C2.01 (revised May, 2013) and follows those guidelines. See http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/Rules_Procedures/ for the University procedure and see http://conhs.tamucc.edu/shb/ for the CONHS process identified in the Student Handbook.

Support Services

Students are encouraged to seek faculty assistance in accessing University Services, including tutoring, health services, personal counseling, degree counseling, financial aid, learning resources, job/work placement, career guidance, and computer/technical support/instruction. If a student is interested in other support services provided by the University, the student is encouraged by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and the University to seek these services.